



**Memorandum of Agreement
Between
The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
And
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) share a commitment to recognize and reward environmental leadership in the protection of air, water, and land. To that end, EPA has created the National Environmental Performance Track and Mississippi is crafting a state-based incentive program. These voluntary performance-based environmental programs encourage program members to focus on issues important to their communities, to take a creative approach to solving problems, and to employ partnerships with local citizens to achieve mutually beneficial environmental goals.

EPA and MDEQ believe that more can be achieved by working together than by pursuing independent goals. Coordination of efforts will increase efficiency and the effectiveness of the two programs. As program membership increases, so do opportunities to encourage industry to commit to practices that yield beyond compliance results and ensure the higher level of environmental protection and awareness that EPA, MDEQ, program members, and the public seek.

Through this Memorandum of Agreement, EPA and MDEQ commit to creating the best value for the programs' members; reducing the resource requirements of both EPA and MDEQ staff and the administrative burden for program members; creating the greatest amount of incentives, flexibility, and recognition for program members deemed feasible; and, reinforcing and encouraging continual improvement in environmental performance.

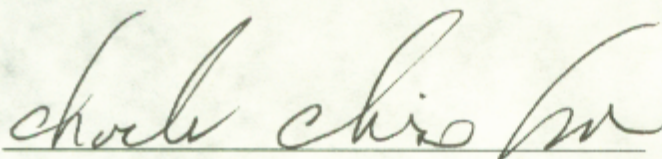
While each program maintains its independence, EPA and MDEQ pledge to:

- Coordinate the application processes of the National Environmental Performance Track and the state program so that eligible applicants can apply to both programs simultaneously.
- Work with facilities to identify ways to streamline and facilitate the application process.

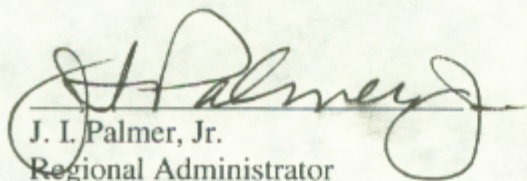
- Provide to eligible facilities the assistance necessary to apply and be evaluated expeditiously for acceptance into both programs.
- Develop incentives that reduce program members' administrative burdens where feasible in recognition of high levels of performance.
- Coordinate the delivery of incentives to achieve maximum environmental benefits while minimizing transaction costs.
- Produce marketing tools and coordinate recruiting and recognition events.
- Work cooperatively to identify regulatory innovations that comply with existing state and federal regulations.
- Communicate to the public the measurable environmental results achieved by the National Environmental Performance Track and the state program.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality will continue to investigate additional ways to enhance and to align the programs to reward program members for their leadership and to protect the environment. The EPA and MDEQ will work to clarify the roles and responsibilities of all partners in the effort to align the programs and develop additional means to deliver recognition, flexibility, and incentives to environmental leader members.

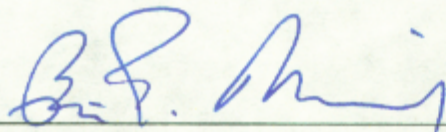
This Memorandum of Agreement is entered into this first day of August, 2006, and remains in effect unless amended by mutual consent.



Charles H. Chisolm
Executive Director
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality



J. I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator
EPA Region IV



Brian Mannix
Associate Administrator
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency